Forest Fire control

*52. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to take care, if not check, of the forest fire and resulting haze as was caused in Indonesia recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) The Government of India does not foresee any possibility of extensive forest fire damage and resultant haze in India particularly in dry season as was caused in Indonesia recently. However, some damage to forest vegetation from fires cannot be ruled out totally.

(b) A centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Modern Forest Fire Control Methods" is being implemented in 11 States (U.P., Orissa, Gujarat, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh). During VIII Five Year Plan, Rs. 7.37 crores were spent under the scheme. Under the scheme the States are provided with financial assistance for procurement of fire fighting hand tools, and other equipments, fire resistant clothing, wireless sets, fire tenders, fire finders, construction of watch towers, creation of fire lines, and research, training & publicity. The scheme is being continued during IX Five Year Plan and tentatively an outlay of 15 crore has been approved by the Planning Commission. Apart from this the Government of India has requested all the States to earmark sufficient funds under the state plan for prevention and control of forest fires. the States have also been advised to motivate and mobilise the villagers and other local people to spot and help in prevention and control of forest fires.

(c) Question does not arise.

Medical supplies in Delhi Hospitals

*53. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the samples of gauge and bandages seized from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital recently were found to be inferior than the prescribed quality;

(b) whether a huge amount of money has also been misappropriated in the purchase of other medical supplies; and

(c) the findings of the enquiry report, if any, and whether any case has been registered on the basis of the findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) Two cases have been registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation, after samples of hospital bandages and gauze were seized from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Safdarjung Hospital and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Hospital, relating to an allegation that the materials were of inferior quality and did not conform to the relevant specifications. The matter is presently under investigation, and the details of the cases including the quality of the seized bandages are part of the evidence to be produced before the Court at the appropriate juncture.

There are no other case/report of complaint/ misappropriation in the purchase of medical supplies in these Hospitals.

Rail Accident at Parli-Vaijnath in Maharashtra

*54. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: (a) whether inquiry into rail accident on 24th April, 1998 at Parli Vaijnath rail station in Beed district of Maharashtra has been completed;

(b) if so, the details of the findings in this regard;

(c) the action, if any taken agaisnt the rail officials found guilty of the mishap; and

(d) the amount of compensation paid to the next of the kin of the persons killed and persons injured?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle, who enquired into the accident is awaited.

(d) Ex-gratia relief at the rate of Rs. 25,000/- to the next of kin of the dead, Rs. 5,000/- to the grievously injured and Rs. 500/- to persons with simple injuries was arranged. Compensation will be paid after award of decrees by the Railway Claims Tribunal.

Perks/Promotional Avenues for Service Doctors

*55. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative pay-scales, perks and promotional avenues of service doctors as professionals in India and other developed and Asian countries;

(b) the reasons for doctors in Government hospitals and other places being poorly paid and neglected; and

(c) whether Non-Practising Allowance (NPA) as recommended by the Fifth Pay Commission is not being paid to doctors; and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Comparative information is not available.

(b) The Pay and Allowances of Doctors belonging to Central Health Service are significantly higher than that of other similarly placed officers of equal status under the Government. Central Health Service Doctors also receive Conveyance Allowance, Research Pursuit Allowance and Post Graduate Allowance as applicable.

(c) Non-Practising Allowance as recommended by the 5th Central Pay Commission has been granted recently to Central Health Service Officers.

डाक्टरों द्वारा निजि अस्पतालों को प्राथमिकता दिया जाना

*56. श्री सूर्यभान पटेल चहाडणे: क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दिनांक 10 फरवरी, 1997 के नवभारत टाइम्स में "निजि अस्पतालों में जा रहे हैं अब अच्छे डाक्टर" शीर्षक के अंतर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;

(ख) सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं तथा इनका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या सरकार को इस दिशा में कोई सफलता प्राप्त हुई है; यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलित एजिलमलाई): (क) से (ग) समाचार में अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ कम वेतन, अपर्याप्त सुविधाओं आदि के कारण सरकारी डाक्टरों के निजी क्षेत्र में चले जाने की बात कही गई है। तथापि, ऐसे कुल डाक्टरों की संख्या बहुत कम है। पांचवे केन्द्रीय वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों के अनुसार केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्य सेवा के अधिकारियों के भत्तों में काफी वृद्धि हुई है। इसके अतिरिक्त, विभिन्न श्रेणियों के डाक्टरों को वाहन भत्ते, अनुसंधान भत्ते, स्नातकोत्तर भत्ते, जो भी लागू हों, दिए जाते हैं।

Allocation of levy sugar

*57. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed by Government for allocation of levy sugar to the States;

(b) whether Government of Gujarat has demanded the allocation of sugar on the basis of population of 1996;

(c) if so, the details thereof and decision taken by Government thereon; and

(d) the time by when it is likely to be supplied as per the projected population of 1996 as base?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND THE MIISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The norm for supply of sugar in the PDS for most States/UTs, including the State of Gujarat is 425 gms per capita based on the 1991 census. In addition, Government also releases about one lakh tonnes per annum as a Festival Quota which is allocated to the States/UTs on a prorata basis linked to their monthly levy quota.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The quantity of sugar accuring to the Central Government in the levy account,